

**WAUKESHA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER  
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 2009  
MINUTES**

**Present:**

Dennis Farrell – (WCDHHS Board)  
Michael DeMares (WCDHHS)  
Colleen Gonzalez (WCTC)  
Linda Cole (Friendships)  
Lisa McLean (MHA)  
Marybeth Vander Male (HIL)  
Diane Begos (MHC - CCS)

Troy Norman (Goodwill)  
Joan Sternweis (MHC - DT)

**Guests:**

Joel Unruh, Friendships  
Greta Petersen, Friendships  
Erin Unruh  
Julie Bjorklund, CCS  
Dave Freudenthal, Clubhouse

**Excused:**

Corrine Gresen (WMH)  
Misty Barnhill (Friendships)  
James Hanover (Div. of Voc. Rehab.)  
Sandra Hack (DHHS)  
Mary Madden (NAMI)

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Mike DeMares. Introductions were made.

**Educational Segment: Community Options Program (COP) - Joel Unruh, Greta Petersen, Erin Unruh and David Freudenthal,**

Joel reported Peer Specialists are employed by emergency rooms, crisis services, Inpatient and Outpatient Care, Veteran's Hospitals, Supported Living arrangements, prisons, CSP, CCS, and many other areas. A brochure on Peer Specialist Conference was passed out and reviewed. After attending the training, Jo feels more people can be reached in Waukesha County. Matching clients with specialists include personalities and client needs.

Joel stated Friendships has become a recovery center offering different groups and programs as part of a client's recovery. Friendships has a Respect Policy, which states you will treat everyone with respect. Some of the One-on-One Peer Specialist services provided include finding an apartment, employment, assist with transportation, relationships, or many areas of concern. Reassurance is the biggest part of motivating clients to attain goals and advance in the community. Documentation is kept and billing is addressed through CCS.

Mike DeMares noted all Peer Support Specialists attend a 72-hour training course, followed by internship by the company who will employ them. They are trained in a variety of mental health issues before they are given an assignment. The Peer Support Specialist Job Description was distributed. Peer Support Specialists are held to a Code of Ethics.

In January the State of WI will administer testing for Certification for Peer Support Specialists. The State has a large infrastructure grant to develop Peer Specialists as a certified profession, as required by the Federal Government. Joan Sternweis stated the next training curriculum with the State of WI are for those who are Certified Peer Specialists as continuing Education for working with veterans, substance abuse, older adults/seniors, or be a family advocate (parent-to-parent support) for children with mental illness.

Mike DeMares stated Inpatient has Medicare/Medicaid rules and a different traffic flow, with admissions throughout the day or night involving different mental health issues. Mike feels there is a role for Peer Specialists involved in Inpatient services and this should be looked.

Dave Freudenthal commented on Milwaukee County's use of Peer Specialists in their inpatient unit, ER, the VA Medical Center and at the Crisis Resource Center. Dave F. strongly supports Peer Specialist use at the Waukesha Mental Health Center's Inpatient Units.

Joan S. added T-19 Medicare has made the decision to reimburse the T-19 HMO's for Peer Specialists. Before the individual leaves the hospital, they will get a call from the Peer Support Specialist to follow up on their next appointment, medication filling or changes, etc.

**Review and Approval of October 2009 Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed. Dennis Farrell moved to approve the minutes with no changes. This was seconded Mike DeMares. The minutes were approved as published.

### **Board Liaison Report**

Dennis Farrell stated the HHS Board has been addressing H1N1 and the vaccination. Vaccination Clinics are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WI Expo Center, 1-6:30 p.m. First Call for Help will be able to tell callers if clinics are operating.

The budget was passed. The County took a 1.7% increase in structure. Most programs were maintained. Dennis added the Unmet Needs of 2010 are to begin in February and the Mental Health Advisory Committee will present third, on March 25, 2010. Dennis gave a review of what the functions of the Unmet Needs are. Unmet Needs should be on the next agenda.

### **Legislative report**

Dennis Farrell stated there are two bills in the Assembly related to Mental Health Parity Legislation. Contact your congressman, assemblyman, or senator for a copy of the bill and ask them to pass it if you agree with it.

### **CCS Coordinating Committee**

Diane Begos stated she and Kim Fischer were in Madison for Train The Trainer for Person Centered Planning. Many things in the program have already been started here. Kim Fischer and Diane Begos will develop a training program, which will be offered to others at MHC. Training included honoring dignity and respect of a person, as well as documentation. Other topics included how Front Desk staff greet clients, how to write for services to be reimbursed, and honor Person Centered Planning. Motivational Interview training will follow. Joan S. stated the core of the training was about the recovery planning document and the assessment that accompanies the document, that you are justifying the level of need, and that the documentation reads clearly and tells a story.

Diane B. handed out the CCS Consumer Activity Reported compiled by Tim Krell. As of November 16, 2009 there were 94 consumers receiving service through the Waukesha County Comprehensive Community Services Program. The handout was reviewed.

### **Old Business –**

Mike DeMares passed out the Mental Health Advisory Committee By-Laws, which were recently approved by the HHS Board. Mike reviewed page 3 VI, Sub-Committees. Mike D. also reviewed the Community Options Oversight Subcommittee Minimum Membership, which was revised by the HHS Board. Mike D. will contact the ADRC and Joan S. will locate a Consumer of COP.

Mike DeMares reviewed the Law Enforcement procedure of calling the Mental Health Center prior to an Emergency Detention. This is for children and adults, 24/7.

Mike D., Joan S., Marcia DeGrothy and Sue Walker met with the Housing Authorities last week to discuss the Sheltered Bus Grant that Waukesha Housing Authority has been awarded. This is 23 Housing Grant vouchers for individuals dealing with mental health issues and are homeless. This is a Federal program. Individuals who spend one night or more at Jeremy House and have no other place to live, if they are willing to accept and maintain services from CSP or CCS or other services, would be eligible for a voucher that would gain them access to housing. It is anticipated there will be 25 individuals impacted by this starting in 2010. If it is determined they may be released from the services, the Housing Authority will make changes to the vouchers. Section 8 housing is being sought as well. A shelter has opened over the winter at St. Mathias for homeless men. During the day they may attend a day program with cooperating churches.

### **New Business –**

January 18, 2010 is the next meeting, however, this is a scheduled Furlough Day. The meeting will be rescheduled to Monday January 25, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Agenda items include Unmet Needs, report from the State on potential MA money, the building blocks of 1915I, which includes the incorporation of Peer Support.

### **Other -**

The new 2010 MHAC Meeting Calendar was passed out.

There was no other business. Linda Cole made a motion to adjourn. Dennis Farrell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

WAUKESHA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER  
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 2009  
MINUTES  
3

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Sylvester  
Recorder

Minutes were approved *Lucy L. Jeman* Date *January 25, 2010*

Cc: Susie Austin, Chair, AODA  
James Pearson, Chair of CAFSAC  
Sue Konkel, Chair, Public Health  
County Clerk, Waukesha County